

Dear Friends,

Please join me on January 9th, 5:30 pm, at Main Street Landing in Burlington:

**Women Preventing Gun-Related Domestic Violence**, an evening of film and discussion.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gbwf-evening-film-showing-five-awake-and-gun-violence-prevention-panel-discussion-wed-jan-9-registration-53863796064#individual>

In my gun violence prevention work, I've had the privilege of collaborating with and learning from Donna Dees for the past 6 years. I am thrilled to bring her here to Vermont to share her film, *Five Awake*, for this event hosted by the Greater Burlington Women's Forum.

*Five Awake* chronicles the journey of five Louisiana women who, appalled by the high rate of gun-related domestic violence in their state, sought to change their state for the better by pushing through a historic legislative package to protect the victims of domestic violence and save lives. This powerful film has won numerous awards, including "Best Louisiana Feature" at the New Orleans Film Fest 2016, "Best Documentary Short" at the Los Angeles Independent Film Festival 2016, and "Best Documentary" at the Women's International Film Fest 2018.

We will be joined by filmmaker Donna Dees, organizer of the Million Mom March in 2000, who has been a leader in the gun violence prevention movement for nearly 20 years. "The high rate of domestic violence homicide is a uniquely American tragedy," says Dees, "Like the women of *Five Awake*, we women have the power to save the lives of our mothers, our sisters, our daughters and of our best friends. We really do."

The film screening will be followed by discussion with a panel of women, including Dees, Clai Lasher (ED of GunSense VT), and Kelly Dougherty (ED of Steps to End Domestic Violence) - women who are increasing awareness about gun violence prevention and changing laws here in Vermont to improve safety and outcomes for people in abusive relationships. Attendees should expect to hear compelling stories on a challenging topic about what motivates these women to lead, and plan to leave inspired by their efforts and with information about how to bring about local change.